

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

The applicant's attorneys appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and remarks.

Claims 9-14 and 21-22 are in the application.

Claim 20 has been cancelled. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 20.

Claims 9-14 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for including terms such as "substantially" and "about" which were alleged to be indefinite. It is respectfully submitted that the meaning of these terms would be clear to one skilled in the art as covering a range that includes a margin of error that would be technically acceptable. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the terms such as "substantially" and "about" indicate to one skilled in the art approximations within a technically acceptable margin of error and, therefore, are not indefinite. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Davies, U.S. Patent No. 5,155,052 in view of Ajit et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,474,946. Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 9 states that "said first base diffusions and said second base diffusions are formed at substantially the same depth." To obtain such a result the second base diffusions are formed by relatively high energy implants as explained on page 9, lines 1-4 of the specification. Implanting dopants to such a depth is an aspect of the present invention intended to prevent the "invasion of channel" regions by the second base regions. Specification page 9, lines 1. To prevent the invasion of the channel regions, Davies teaches that the second base regions should be implanted using sidewall spacers 18 as a mask. Col. 4, lines 12-14. Davies greatly emphasizes using the sidewall spacers as a mask as a critical processing step. Col. 4, lines 33-38; lines 45-47. On the other hand, claim 9 provides that the second base diffusions are implanted using stripes as the mask wherein the first and the second base diffusions are formed at substantially the same depth. Davies teaches away from such a step as it states that even thin sidewalls may result in the invasion of the channel regions. Col. 4, lines 33-38. It is, therefore, submitted that Davies fails to show or suggest the combination of steps recited in claim 9. Reconsideration is requested.

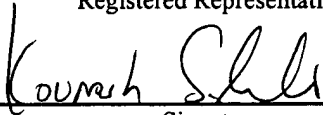
Claims 10-14 and 21-22 depend from claim 9, and, therefore, include its limitations. These claims include other limitations which in combination with those of claim 9 are not shown or suggested by the art of record. Reconsideration is requested.

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on July 24, 2002

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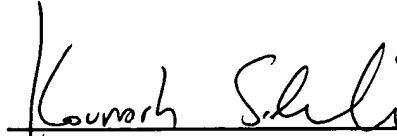
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July 24, 2002

Date of Signature

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Respectfully submitted,



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